

Memorandum formalizes the Office of Great Start at the Michigan Department of Education

The Michigan Department of Education's Office of Great Start is officially in business.

On Tuesday, Aug. 30, Mike Flanagan, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Department of Education, and Maura D. Corrigan, Director, Michigan Department of Human Services, signed a "Memorandum of Understanding" that was the final formal step in the birth of the Michigan Office of Great Start, which was created earlier this year by an executive order issued by Governor Rick Snyder.

The new office combines the Department of Human Service's Office of Child Development and Care and the Head Start State Collaboration with the Department of Education's Office of Early Childhood Education and Family Services.

The Michigan Office of Great Start will manage a coherent system of early learning and development that aligns, integrates and coordinates Michigan's investments in critical early learning and development programs.. In addition to helping ensure children are developmentally on track, the new office will reduce duplication and administrative overhead costs.

The Michigan Office of Great Start is part of Governor Snyder's broader education reform agenda outlined in his special message on Reinventing Michigan's Education System given April 27, 2011. To view this special message, please visit www.mi.gov/Snyder.

To view a copy of the Memorandum of Understanding, [click here](#). The Michigan Office of Great Start will be housed on the fourth floor of the Hannah Building in Lansing.